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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 006845

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2014

TAGS: [CY](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: PUTIN REPORTEDLY PROMISES RUSSIAN UNSC SUPPORT FOR  
TURKEY ON CYPRUS

Classified by Political Counselor John Kunstadter. E.O.  
12958, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[11.](#) (C) Summary: Putin promised Russian support for Turkey in the UNSC during meetings with Turkish President Sezer and PM Erdogan, according to Turkish MFA Cyprus Department Head Bilman. FM Lavrov tried to backpedal, but Putin said he would call UNSYG Annan to express Russian support for the Good Offices Mission May report, including paragraph 93, which calls on the international community to end Turkish Cypriot isolation. Bilman is skeptical that Putin's words will translate into action, but Turkey will be watching. End Summary.

[12.](#) (C) In advance of Putin's December 5-6 Ankara visit (broader readouts, septel) we encouraged the MFA to raise with Putin Russian UNSC behavior on Cyprus-related issues. After the April 24 referendum, the MFA said Turkey will measure bilateral relations by how much each country supports Turkey -- or not -- on Cyprus. We noted that Turkey apparently has never implemented this policy vis-a-vis Russia.

[13.](#) (C) According to Cyprus Department Head Bilman, both Sezer and Erdogan raised Cyprus with Putin (Bilman was present for the Sezer meeting outside the one-on-one portion). Sezer asked for Russian UNSC support; Putin replied that Russia supports the May Good Offices Mission Report. According to Bilman, in the one-on-one meeting with Sezer, Putin said he would call SYG Annan to express Russian support for the Report.

[14.](#) (C) With both delegations present, FM Lavrov intervened and tried to backpedal, asserting Russia has already been supportive of Turkish Cypriots. Sezer cut him off and said Russia's positive approach should be reflected in its UNSC behavior, and that Turkey expects strong support on the Report, including paragraph 93. Putin also reportedly promised Erdogan support on the Report (Bilman was not present at the Erdogan meeting, but received a readout quickly thereafter).

[15.](#) (C) Comment: Noting the apparent divergent views between Putin and Lavrov, Bilman, who worked at the UN for four years on Cyprus issues, expressed skepticism that Putin's words will translate into acts at the UNSC. Still, he thinks Putin got a clear message in Ankara. In the wake of Sezer's push and Putin's promises, the Turks will be watching Russian UNSC behavior closely. End Comment.

EDELMAN